Increase in leprosy

1160. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leprosy affected people in the country have been increasing;

(b) if so, whether in some States leprosy affected people are increasing rapidly;

(c) whether the WHO and other US organizations have extended financial and other help to India to fight with the disease; and

(d) if so, the details of such help extended during the last three years and the manner in which Government utilized the assistance?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact there has been a declining trend in so far as number of leprosy patients are concerned.

(c) and (d) The help extended by the WHO is in the form of free Anti leprosy drugs, the value of which supplied during the last 3 years is given below:

	Rs. in crores.
2000-01	20.00
2001-02	11.74
2002-03	10.00

These drugs are supplied free of cost to all the States/UTs as per their requirement.

Health as most corrupt sector

1161. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article on the state of medical practices published in the 3rd February, 2003 issue of the Outlook magazine, concluding that health to be one of India's top corrupt sectors;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the details of the steps contemplated, if any, to enforce strict ethical norms in medical treatment by private nursing homes; and

(d) the details of specific steps contemplated to address the concern about lacunae in registration laws which provide easy escape for medical practitioners who malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government, through the Medical Council of India and the State Medical Councils, has been trying to regulate the professional conduct of registered medical practitioners in the country. The complaints of medical negligence by doctors are dealt with by Ethical Committee of Medical Council of India and/or the State Medical Councils.

(c) While the Govt. has notified the Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 on 11th March, 2002 which, *inter-alia*, among seeks to list the acts of commission or omission on the part of physicians which can be viewed as acts of professional misconduct besides prescribing punishment and disciplinary action, the private Nursing Homes are registered by State Govt. which have enacted legislation to govern the conditions of their registration and related matters.

(d) All Medical Practitioners are required to possess a medical qualification included in the schedule to the IMC Act, 1956 and also meet other requirements as prescribed by the Council to be eligible to get registration with the State Medical Council/Medical Council of India to practice medicine in any part of India.

National policy for promoting ISM&H

†1162. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any separate National Policy for promoting the Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy to encourage the indigenous pharmaceuticals;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.